

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 4 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1 – 4 have been amended. No new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated April 22, 2004.

Abstract:

The abstract stands objected to due to some minor informalities set forth in item 1 of the Action. However, the abstract has been amended to correct such informalities. As such, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Title:

The Title of the invention stands objected to in item 2 of the Action as being not descriptive of the present invention. However, the Title has been amended to read as:

DIGITAL CAMERA INCLUDING THE COMPRESSION OF SIZE-REDUCED
IMAGES AFTER PICTURE TAKING IS COMPLETED.

It is submitted that the Title as amended is now descriptive of the present invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection to the Title is respectfully requested.

As To The Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejections:

- 1) claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,143,730) in view of DCF (Design rule for Camera Film system);

- 2) claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,415,102) in view of DCF (Design rule for Camera Film system); and
- 3) claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 6,137,534)¹ in view of Nagasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,153,730).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention, a plurality of main images and a plurality of size-reduced images which are obtained by successive picture-taking operations are recorded to a recording medium in a compression state. A main image compressor compressing a single main image each time a single picture-taking operation is carried out so as to create a single compressed main image. A main image writer writes the single compressed main image to an internal memory every time a single compressing operation is carried out by the main image compressor. The plurality of size-reduced images is compressed by a size-reduced image compressor after ending the successive picture-taking operations.

Writing of the single compressed main image to the internal memory every time the single compressing operation is carried out and compressing the plurality of size-reduced images after ending the successive picture taking operations make it possible to reduce a capacity of the internal memory and shorten a picture taking interval in the successive picture taking operations.

¹ Please note that although in item 13 of the Action Anderson (US 5,933,137) is listed as the applied reference, such reference was not made of record by the Examiner on the accompanied PTO-892 Form. Instead, Anderson (US 6,137,534) is listed by the Examiner on the accompanied PTO-892 Form. Accordingly, a telephone call was made to the Examiner during which he verified that the correct patent number for Anderson is US 6,137,534.

In contrast, Nagasaki et al. disclose to temporarily write to a memory card a plurality of frames of still image data obtained by successive picture taking operations and subject each frame of the still image data to a data processing such as data compression after ending the successive picture taking operations. However, as the Examiner acknowledges, Nagasaki et al. fails to disclose or remotely suggest anything about compressing a plurality of size-reduced images after ending the successive picture taking operations. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is not possible to reach the present invention from Nagasaki et al.

Fujii et al. disclose to record to a memory card a plurality of frames of main images data and a plurality of frames of size-reduced image data which are obtained by a successive picture taking operations and subject the main image data to a compression process prior to a recording operation. However, as the Examiner also acknowledges, Fujii et al. fail to disclose or remotely suggest anything about compressing the plurality of frames of size-reduced image data after ending the successive picture taking operations. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is also not possible to reach the present invention from Fujii et al.

Anderson discloses to record to a removable memory main image data and size-reduced image data i.e. scrennail image data in a compression state. However, no successive picture taking operations are carried out in Anderson, and therefore, Anderson fails to disclose or remotely suggest anything about compressing a plurality of frames of the size-reduction image data after ending the successive picture taking operations. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is impossible to reach the present invention from Anderson.

The DCF only requires a camera processor to compress both a main image and a size-reduced image when creating an image file. Accordingly, the DCF fails to disclose or remotely suggest anything about compressing a plurality of size-reduced images after ending successive picture taking operations. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is not possible to reach the present invention from the DCF.

With regard to a combination of Nagasaki et al., Fujii et al., Anderson and the DCF, each reference fails to disclose or remotely suggest anything about compressing a plurality of size-reduced image after ending successive picture taking operations. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is also impossible to reach the present invention from the combination, and therefore, the present invention is patentable.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 001574
Serial No.: 09/725,147

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', followed by a horizontal line.

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